ADEQ

A R K A N S A S
Department of Environmental Quality

News Release

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 14, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING ON CEDAR CHEMICAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 22

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting in Helena-West Helena on Tuesday, Sept. 22, to update area residents on clean-up work at the former Cedar Chemical Company site.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at the Delta Cultural Center, 141 Cherry St.

Members of the public are invited to attend and ask questions regarding work at the Cedar Chemical site.

The 48-acre site located on Arkansas 242 was placed on the State Priority List after Cedar Chemical Company abandoned its chemical manufacturing facility and declared bankruptcy.

Since Cedar Chemical was placed on the priority list, the state has used its authority under the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (RAFTA) to address possible environmental concerns at the site and protect human health and the environment.

ADEQ, the state's environmental regulator, has worked since 2007 to prevent environmental impacts from Cedar Chemical. Hazardous substances such as pesticides, volatile organics and heavy metals have been detected in soils and groundwater on the site.

ADEQ provides 24-hour security at the former plant. An operator under contract with ADEQ maintains the on-site wastewater treatment plant to handle any storm water runoff from the facility.

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Ansul Inc., Helena Chemical Company and Exxon Mobil Corp. were ordered by ADEQ to implement a site investigation and conduct feasibility studies to evaluate environmental remedies.

A facility investigation report was submitted last October based on data from the groundwater sampling completed in 2008. The two feasibility studies were submitted to ADEQ recently. The studies recommend final remediation measures based on soil and groundwater data collected at and nearby the site.

The department is reviewing those studies as it prepares to make a formal decision on remedial action for the site.

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